

in the two groups is not associated with a higher or lower level of knowledge, as well as the participants' age and religion, the educational attainment of parents, or the current absence of a partner and the fact that they have attended some form of training in sex education. The study also concluded that, in this sample, there are no more cases of sexual abuse than in the normative population and it shows no increased frequency of masturbatory behavior or lesser frequency in sexual relations with penetration. It was also found that individuals with Intellectual Disability using regular methods of contraceptives, such as the normative population. The study allowed forward with some suggestions for future research, including outline a comprehensive program of training in sexual education.

### THE IMPACT OF A SEX EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS OF 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> CYCLE OF BASIC EDUCATION

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**Introduction:** This research aims to identify the needs of students of basic education on sexuality and sex education (SE) and, from these, to develop their skills in order to promote a healthy sexuality.

**Methods:** To understand the students' conceptions and needs concerned with human sexuality and SE, we developed a questionnaire for the second and the third cycle of basic education students attending an Oporto school. Questionnaire was filled in online by 397 students (192 females and 205 males). The data obtained were taken into account when developing a SE program applied to 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th grade students, by the school teachers. After the program we applied a questionnaire, which was filled in on paper by 112 students (60 females and 52 males), in order to ascertain the changes occurred. Both questionnaire results were processed with SPSS statistical program.

**Results:** About 47% of the students acquired a comprehensive concept of sexuality, against the 43.1% that in the diagnoses phase only considered the biologic dimension of sexuality. The intervention students revealed more knowledge about reproduction, sexually transmitted infections, contraception, pregnancy and hygiene. Students who participated in SE activities agreed more than those in the diagnose phase that school is a place where they could clarify doubts about sexuality and that teachers were able to clarify them. These students also agreed more that they wanted to participate in more SE activities. Students who participated in the evaluation phase also considered more that SE has an important role in the children and adolescents development.

**Conclusions:** A SE intervention that considers the needs of their target audience has a greater probability of effectiveness.

### THE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' KNOWLEDGE OF MASTER'S DEGREES IN TEACHING AND IN EDUCATION ABOUT (HOMO)SEXUALITY

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**Introduction:** It is argued that knowledge about sexuality and sexual diversity is socio-historically constructed, and social institutions, while agents of sociocultural reproduction, should contribute to spread an adequate knowledge regarding these dimensions of human health and human rights and to construct a society stripped of sexual prejudice.

**Objectives:** To identify the level of knowledge about (homo) sexuality of university students of master's degrees in Arts and in Education.

**Methods:** It was applied to university students of master's degrees in Arts and in Education (N = 320), the anonymous questionnaire of Alderson (Alderson, Orzeck, & McEwen, 2009) that includes twenty-four true/false items measuring general knowledge about sexuality and sexual orientation, relationships and behaviours of homosexual individuals, and practices in relation to homosexuality.

**Results:** Despite the limitations of this study, for example, some participants may have been more susceptible to responding to certain items based on political correctness, the results supported our overall hypothesis that the majority of these university students have low levels of knowledge about sexuality and homosexuality.

**Conclusions:** Therefore assuming that university students will be future agents of development and change, this study shows that is crucial to implement sexuality education and sexual diversity in the curriculum of the master's degrees in Arts and in Education to construct a society increasingly enriched and informed that safeguards sexual diversity. So we should invest in a culture of active citizenship and belief in the value of reflective and emancipatory dialogue, in order to build healthy coexistence environments and minimizing the homo-negativity.

### BASED-SCHOOL SEX EDUCATION IN PORTUGAL: A DOCUMENT ANALYSIS

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**Introduction:** The latest Portuguese legislation on sex education was published in 2009. However, there is few information about the effectiveness of this law and the current implementation of based-school sex education.

**Objectives:** The main goals of this paper are to analyze the implementation of sex education in Portuguese schools, three years after the newest law, to make the access to this information easier and thus to contribute to the study of the best strategies to actually carry out school-based sex education.

**Methods:** We conducted a qualitative study and 89 documents about based-school sex education implementation between seventh and ninth grades were analyzed by two coders.

**Results:** The categories with the highest frequency were teaching methods, partnerships, and curriculum contents; and those with the lowest were needs assessment, theoretical framework, and training.

**Conclusions:** The results confirm part of previous data and show that there is a common way to implement sex education in Portuguese schools, though the variability of the documents. The paper discusses the results accounted the current law and the features of sex education models, presenting suggestions to lessen the difficulties and hindrances.

### THE INFLUENCE OF THE MEDIA IN SEXUAL ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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**Introduction:** It's beyond question the relevant role that the media has in people's everyday life, when promoting and spreading